

Dear Commissioners:

The American Radio Relay League Petition, RM-10867, is by far too lenient and would cause chaos on the HF bands. Giving over 215,000 Technician class operators access to the general band segments is going to create overcrowded conditions along with constant interference with contacts on both sides of your QSO. In result, I feel this is going to cause a domino effect resulting in having the CW band segments reduced in size. Morse code examination has been a very important aspect of amateur radio and should be continued as requirement for HF access. As the VE team leader for a local radio club, I have found most examinees that have passed Element 1, have taken the time to actually study theory that is required for higher class licenses and follow better operating practices, instead of just memorizing the question pool like every 1 out of 2 technician class applicants that come in for a test. Morse code is a skill that can't be memorized like the question pool, and some people just don't want to spend more than the fee days that it takes to memorize the question pool. Taking a code test at 5 wpm requires a little time and practice, but is not an impossible task for most people.

I therefore recommend, petition RM-10867 be dismissed.

Respectfully,

Mark A. Skowronski, K9MQ